

We shall never create an organised and moralized world, in which the writ of Machiavelli will cease to run, unless we can banish the spectre of aggression. But the ghost can only be laid by providing alternative methods of securing the aims which war is waged to achieve. Arbitration is excellent as far as it goes, but many conflicts arise from causes too deep for it to remove so long as the doctrine of unfettered national sovereignty prevails. The darkest clouds on the horizon to-day are the Japanese ambitions in the Far East and the revisionist demands of the European states defeated in the Great War. To expect that war will be averted by the simple expedient of maintaining the *status quo* is to live in a world of illusions, for the Grand Alliance of 1914-1918 is dead.

When Japan argues that China is a state with which normal relations are impossible she merely seeks to cloak her aggression. Before the war every nation possessed the recognized right in international law to go to war whenever and wherever it liked. But with the creation of the League each signatory of the Covenant - undertook to respect and preserve the territorial integrity of its fellow members, and the Pact of Paris pledged us all to renounce war as an instrument of national policy. In addition to these general obligations, Japan also agreed in the Nine-Power Treaty of Washington "to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, of China." The weakness of the latter was fully known to the signatories at the time. It was therefore irrelevant to adduce her internal troubles as an excuse for invasion in 1931 when they had been expressly recognized in the treaty of 1922. For the nine Powers solemnly agreed "to provide the fullest and most unembarrassed opportunity to China to develop and maintain for herself an effective and stable government." The belief that the railway to

Mukden was cut by Chinese hands in September 1931 was not accepted by the Lytton Commission. The elaborate preparations for the conquest of Manchuria were complete, and the troops awaited the signal for attack. The United States were in, deep waters, England was in the throes of a financial crisis, and Russia was immersed in her Five-Year Plan. The world's extremity was Japan's opportunity. The League frowned, but was powerless to act. It declined to recognize the fruits of aggression, but it could do no more.

The most dangerous issue in Europe is the revision of the settlements imposed on the defeated parties at the end of the